

There are an estimated 27.2 million small businesses in the United States, and more than half of all Americans either own or work for a small business. Small businesses contribute to the strength and well-being of our economy. This week marks the 48th annual National Small Business Week. From May 16-20, we honor the outstanding men and women whose entrepreneurial spirit and enterprise make our nation the richest and most innovative in the world.

Small businesses are responsible for creating 60-80 percent of new jobs, driving economic recovery and innovation and ensuring our global competitiveness. This year's theme of "Empowering Entrepreneurs" is a reminder of Congress' vital role in small business investment. It is critical that we continue to support entrepreneurs, small business owners, and their families by giving them the tools and opportunities they need to prosper.

To help small businesses succeed, Democrats are continuing their "Make It In America" initiative, which aims to help American businesses produce goods and create jobs here at home. The "Make It In America" initiative consists of various bills that support small businesses by, among other things, investing in small business innovation research and technology transfer programs; providing tax credits to high-tech and biotech small businesses; helping small businesses and start-ups save; and creating a grant program at the Commerce Department to transform struggling small businesses to producers of clean energy, high-tech, and advanced products. To learn more about the "Make It In America" initiative and other ways that Democrats are working to support small businesses, please visit www.dems.gov.

Small businesses drive our nation's economy and create much-needed jobs. As we celebrate National Small Business Week, let us reaffirm our commitment to entrepreneurs and small business owners. Together, we will help ensure that American small businesses and families "make it in America." For more information regarding small businesses, please visit the U.S. Small Business Administration at: www.sba.gov.